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Buildings for the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an estimate of $24,700 for the construction of agency buildings at the new site selected on the Missouri River for the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak.

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51st Congress, 2d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { Ex. Doc. No. 104.

BUILDINGS FOR THE CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, S. DAK.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an estimate of $24,700 for the construction of agency buildings at the new site selected on the Missouri River for the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak.

DECEMBER 18, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *December* 17, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 15th instant, submitting an estimate for an appropriation of $24,700 for the construction of agency buildings at the new site selected on the Missouri River for the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak.

Respectfully yours,

W. WINDOM,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 13, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to state that owing to the fact that a great portion of the Great Sioux Reservation has been thrown open to settlement, and that the Cheyenne River Agency, at the Fort Bennett Military Reservation, is many miles outside of the Sioux diminished reservation, it will be necessary to erect new agency buildings for the Indians of the said agency at the point selected for their occupation.

I inclose herewith a letter from P. P. Palmer, United States Indian Agent at the Cheyenne River Agency, dated October 11 last, in which he states that by authority of this office the location selected for the agency is in a bend of the Missouri River at a point nearly opposite Forest City, S. Dak., that the river there is narrow, with good chan-

nel and high banks. On west side of river there is a high bottom, covered with heavy timber of cottonwood, ash, and box alder. This bottom is about 5 miles long and will average about one-fourth mile wide. Back of this timber is high prairie about one-third of a mile in width at location of new site, and widening to three-fourths mile farther west; back of this prairie are steep bluffs.

He further states that none of the agency buildings would be less than 24 feet above high-water mark on ground sloping about 100 feet per mile. That the distance from agency to proposed new site is 35 miles winter road, and 55 miles by summer road; distance to Pierre, where goods are delivered for his agency, 35 miles by winter road and 40 miles by summer road, and that the distance to agency stations will be about the same from the new site as from the present location.

He states that, in his opinion, it would be impossible to move any of the old buildings so long a distance over these rough roads, and that if the buildings should be torn down the quantity of good lumber saved would be so small that it would not pay the Government to pay for the labor in demolishing the old buildings.

He estimates that the cost of new buildings would amount to $24,700, and that the estimate is based on the cost of material at his agency.

I also inclose a letter from Senator O. H. Platt, dated September 4, 1890, recommending the removal of the agency to the point selected; also a letter dated October 23, 1890, from Agent Palmer in regard to the water supply at the new location; and a communication from J. J. S. Hassler, vice president Forest City and Sioux City Railroad Company, dated September 5, 1890, relative to the advisability of the removal of the agency to the new location, on account of railroad facilities that are now completed to Forest City, directly opposite the Cheyenne River Reservation. I also inclose a map showing the location of the old agency, also the site selected on the Missouri River for the proposed new buildings.

In view of the urgent necessity for the construction of new agency buildings at the new site, I have caused to be prepared and submit herewith an estimate of the amount required to construct said buildings, with the recommendation that the same be referred to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for transmittal to Congress.

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, *December* 15, 1890.

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, with the recommendation that the within estimate receive the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

GEO. CHANDLER,
Acting Secretary.

Estimate of the appropriations required to construct agency buildings at the new site selected for the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., on the Missouri River.

This amount to be expended in the construction of agency buildings at the new site selected on the Missouri River, for the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., $24,700.

COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES,
United States Senate, September 4, 1890.

DEAR SIR: The Sioux Indian Agency is at Fort Bennett military reservation, which is many miles outside the Sioux Reservation, and it seems to me an agency ought to be established within the reservation. A railroad has now been constructed to the Missouri River, striking it at Forest City. Charger's Camp, on the opposite bank, would, it is suggested, make a good point at which to locate an agency for that place.

I wish to call your attention to the matter, and see if it is not possible and advisable and in the interest of economy to remove the agency from Fort Bennett to some point opposite Forest City. My attention has been called to the matter by the people who have built the railroad from Gettysburgh to Forest City, many of whom are from Connecticut. I do not recommend that anything be done to enhance the interests of the railroad people; but if it is for the interests of the Indians to have an agency on the reservation, and I think it is, it is quite proper that it should be located where the Government would be at least expense for freights, etc.

Will you look into the matter, and if you are satisfied that a new location of the agency upon the reservation opposite Forest City is desirable, make such recommendation in your next report, and also recommend an appropriation sufficient to carry it out.

Very truly yours,

O. H. PLATT.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

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100 I STREET, NORTHWEST,
Washington, D. C., September 5, 1890.

SIR: Referring to our conversation of yesterday, I have the honor to submit the following reasons why the Cheyenne River Indian Agency should be removed from its present site to one farther north and nearer the center of the diminished reservation.

(1) The present agency buildings are not upon the reservation proper, and are only upon the reservation as withheld by the proclamation of the President.

(2) The recent completion of a section of the Forest City and Sioux City Railroad from Forest City to Gettysburgh, S. Dak., has made the connection of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway to the Missouri River at Forest City, which is directly opposite the reservation, and about midway between Cheyenne and Moro Rivers. The completion of this railroad will give the Government as cheap rates on all supplies and materials as can be had at either Chamberlain, Pierre, or Bismarck, and save all handling, hauling, or steamboat transportation, as the goods will be landed just opposite the proposed site of the new agency. The Government will have direct telegraphic communication, which is a matter of some importance, I take it. The saving in freight charges will, in my opinion, be quite an item, say $2,000 to $4,000 per annum. Your books, however, will give that much more accurately.

(3) Being as I am the vice president and general manager of the Forest City and Sioux City Railroad Company, I take great interest in the development and business of that section, especially as it gives business to our road and assists in other directions.

We will deliver lumber and other material for the construction of the agency buildings at a very low rate. There are now being manufactured at Forest City large quantities of first-class brick and lime, which can be had cheap, and of easy access, which will greatly cheapen the construction of buildings.

I should be greatly pleased if you could in person inspect that portion of the country or send a special agent, in order that you may have some one to verify what I have so briefly stated.

I beg you may give this matter your favorable consideration.

Very respectfully,

J. J. S. HASSLER,
Vice President F. C. and S. C. R. R. Co.,
Forest City, S. Dak.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., October 11, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith rough sketch showing plan of proposed new agency, together with plan of buildings, also map showing location selected, as per authority office letter, A, 27, 233-90-27, 418, September 18, 1890.

The location selected is situated in a bend of the Missouri River at a point nearly opposite Forest City, S. Dak. The river here is narrow, with good channel and high banks; on the west side of river there is a high bottom, covered with heavy timber of cottonwood, ash, and box elder. This bottom is about 5 miles long and will average about one-fourth of a mile wide. Back of this timber is high prairie about one-third of a mile in width at location of new site, and widening to three-fourths of a mile farther west; back of this prairie is steep bluffs.

None of the agency buildings would be less than 24 feet above high-water mark, on ground sloping about 100 feet per mile. The strip of timber north of river bend, as shown in map, is about 7 miles long, one-fourth to 1 mile wide, and very heavy timber; the island to the south is also covered with timber.

The distance from agency to proposed new site is 35 miles by winter road and 55 miles by summer road; distance to Pierre, where we now receive goods for this agency, is 35 miles by winter road and 40 miles by summer road; the distance to out stations will be about the same from the new site as from the present location. In regard to moving agency buildings, I beg leave to report that in my judgment it would be impossible to move any of them so long a distance over such rough roads as we have.

Your second proposition as to what would be the cost of new buildings, provided material from the old ones be used in the new, in answer would state that some of the old buildings could be taken down and material used in some of the new; but the amount of good lumber would be so small that the cost of tearing down buildings and moving old material to new site and the extra expense of working old material would cost as much as to build all of new material.

Your third proposition is to build all of new material. In my rough estimate the cost is placed at about $24,700; this estimate is based on the cost of material at this agency.

Provided authority was obtained to sell the old buildings at this agency, I have no means of judging what they would bring.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PERAIN P. PALMER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

(Rough sketch and map sent under separate cover by this mail.)

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., October 23, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication contained in office letter A 31974 '90, October 18, 1890, in reference to selecting a site for the location of a new agency headquarters, in which you ask if there are any springs or running water available, or how it is proposed to obtain a supply of water for agency and boarding school purposes. In answer, would respectfully state that there are no springs of good water and no permanent stream near the proposed new site, and very few, if any, on this reserve. The Missouri furnishes the best and only permanent water supply known to this section of country, unless it should be thought advisable to sink an artesian well, in which case there is no doubt a supply of good water could be obtained for agency and school use. In answer to your inquiry which refers to the amount of arable land that would be needed for a school, would respectfully state that the prairie land referred to in my communication of the 11th instant is as good arable land as can be found on this reserve, and 200 acres or more could be made available for school use.

This land is nearly all claimed by Indians and is considered good land here, but a lack of rainfall at the proper time renders farming very uncertain on this reserve. In answer to that part of your letter referring to cattle corral, cattle pens, slaughter houses, etc., or whether the necessary facilities for the same exist at the new location, would beg leave to state that the same conditions exist at the new site as exist at the present location. There is plenty of room for yards, pens, and slaughter house and plenty of range for an agency herd, but no running water exeept the Missouri River. No doubt water could be secured for slaughter-house use by sinking a well. There would be the same trouble in securing hay in dry seasons at the new site that exists elsewhere on the reserve. I inclose rough sketch of new site showing location of buildings.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PERAIN P. PALMER,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

O

Proposed Plans
for the new
Cheyenne River Agency
by
Perain P. Palmer.
U.S. Indian Agent.

Additional building to be placed at proper distance from Main Agency building as may be found in each locality most convenient.

Plan. Lumber Shed with sliding doors. 24 × 120

Issue Warehouse.
120 × 30
1½ Story high.
2nd floor for School Goods & tools & miscellaneous goods.
1st floor & half up the sides sheeted with corrugated iron to make it wet proof.
Stationary Scale.
Wall where cation issues are made.
Counter.
Gate.

Warehouse for Agency Goods.
100 × 30
floor & half the sides sheeted with corrugated iron.
Stationary Scale.

Carpenter Shop 24 × 40
Blacksmith Shop 24 × 40
1½ Story High.

Warehouse for Wag. Material. Paint Glass and Miscellaneous.
30 × 56

Bacon Storehouse 30 × 12

Bacon Shed for Wagons, Buggies, Ranges, etc. 20 × 66

Iron Store House 18 × 24

Blacksmith Coal 12 × 24

Coal Shed 12 × 12

Commissary Room 14 × 22

Dispensary 12 × 14

Hall

Chief Clerk 14 × 15

Issue Clerk 14 × 15

Agents Office 15 × 16

Stallion teasing yard

Oats 12 × 16
Corn 12 × 16
Bran 12 × 16
Tool house 12 × 16

Open Sheds for Police ponies 16 × 54

Hay Scale

Grain Room 10 × 16
Stall 10 × 12
Stall 10 × 12
Agency Stable. Stone & Log 30 × 80 — left to hold about 50 Tons.
Stall 10 × 12
Stall 10 × 12
Harness room 10 × 16

Corn Crib 8 × 10
Corn Crib 8 × 10

Wall of Com. Lumber

Warehouse for Ammunition 16 × 40

Wall of Com. Lumber

Agency Cook House 20 × 48

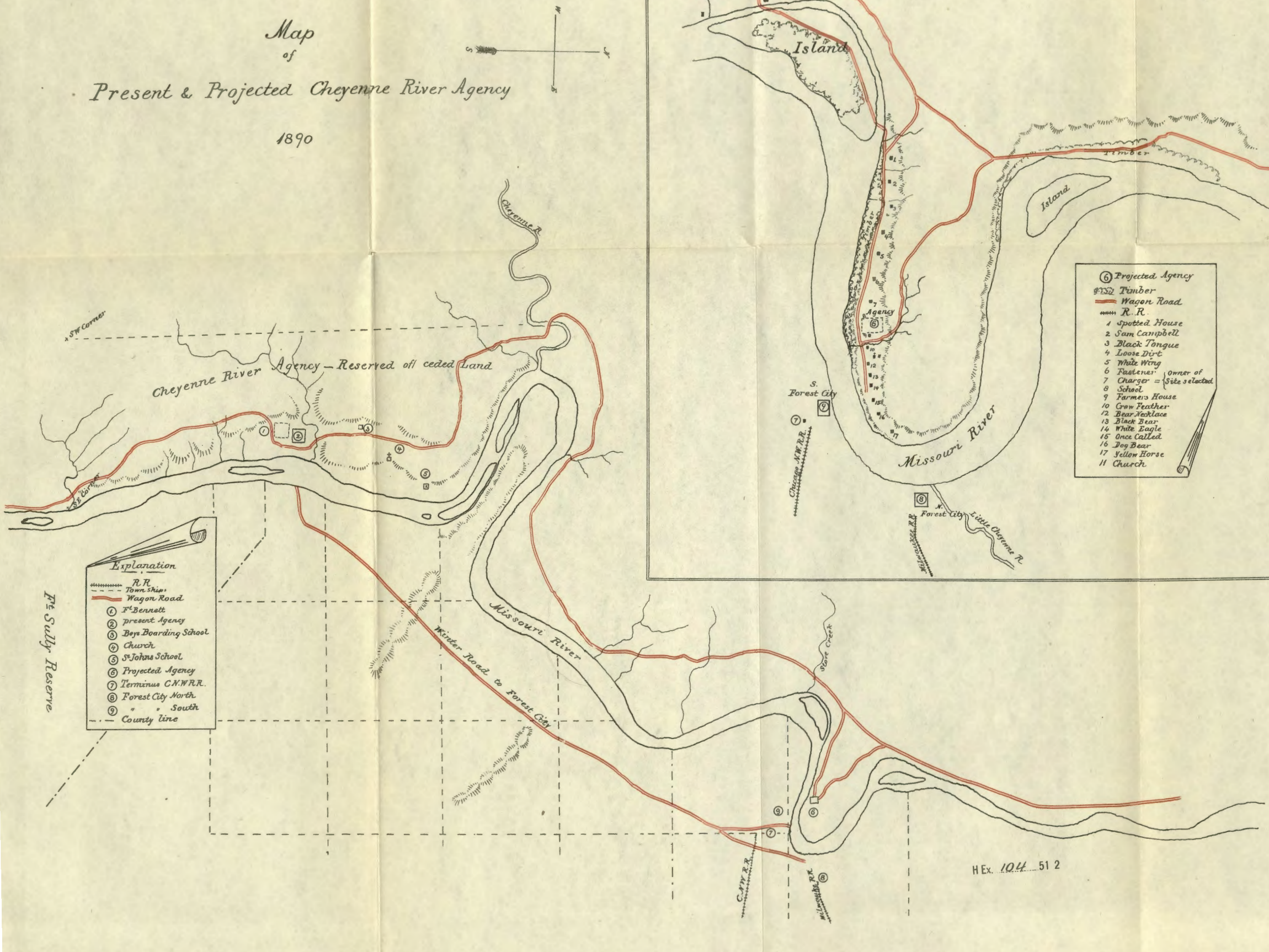
Gallon with fresh water

Privy

Privy

Privy

Map
of
Present & Projected Cheyenne River Agency
1890



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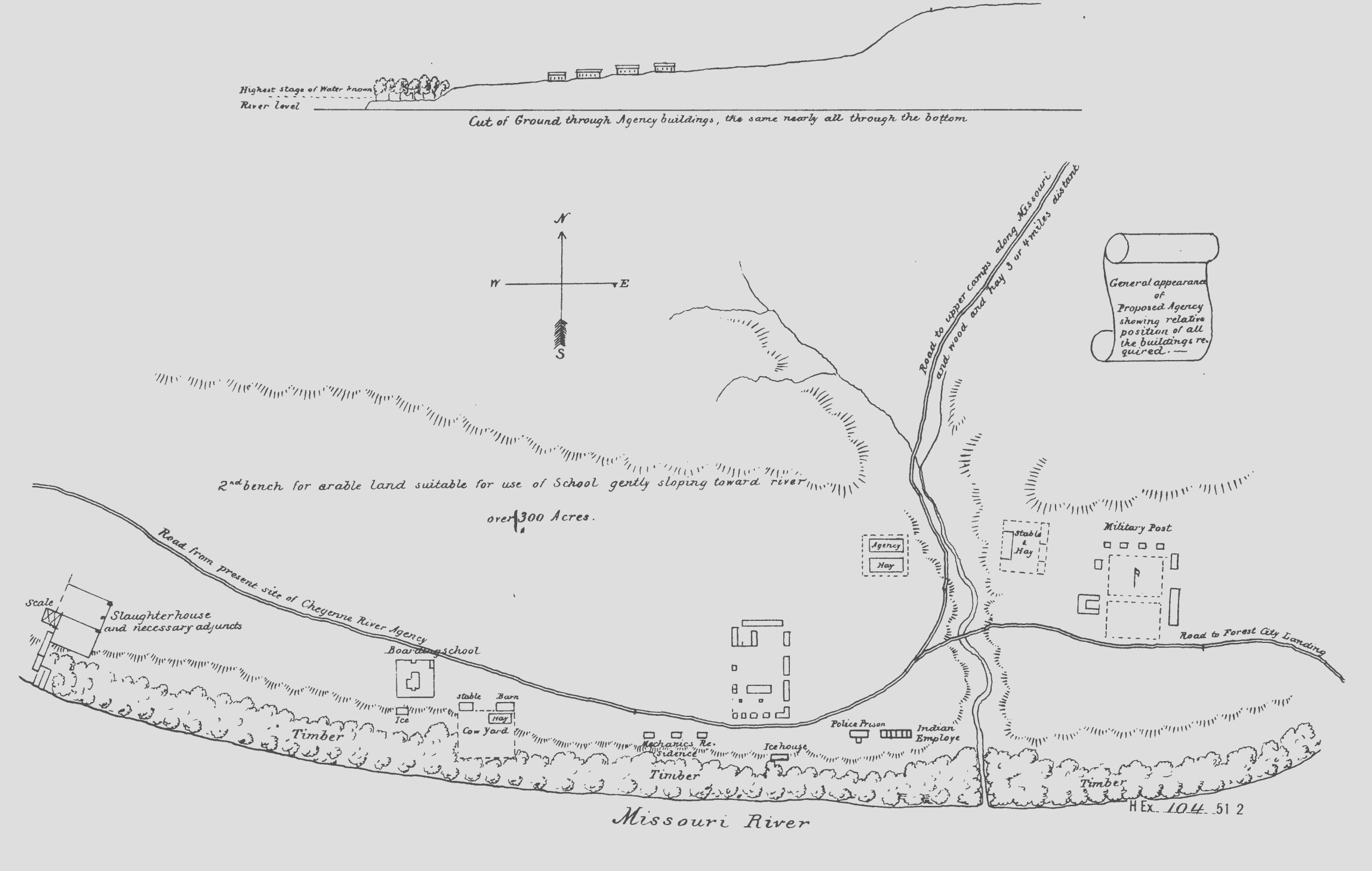
Highest stage of Water known
River level
Cut of Ground through Agency buildings, the same nearly all through the bottom
N
W
E
S
General appearance of Proposed Agency showing relative position of all the buildings required.
Road to upper camps along Missouri and wood and hay 3 or 4 miles distant
2nd bench for arable land suitable for use of School gently sloping toward river
over 300 Acres.
Agency
Hay
Stable & Hay
Military Post
Road from present site of Cheyenne River Agency
Scale
Slaughterhouse and necessary adjuncts
Boarding school
Road to Forest City Landing
Stable
Barn
Hay
Ice
Cow Yard
Timber
Mechanics Residence
Icehouse
Police Prison
Indian Employe
Timber
Timber
Missouri River
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